

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-6. (canceled).

7. (currently amended) A bone instrumentation cover or shield according to claim [[1]]
21, wherein the fastener portion includes a lower frame of the cap or casing provided with an open, box-like aperture ~~for the placement over~~ locking the cap to the bone instrumentation

8. (currently amended) A bone instrumentation cover or shield according to claim [[1]]
21, wherein the cap or casing is a pliable or flexible pouch.

9. (canceled).

10. (currently amended) A bone instrumentation cover or shield according to claim [[1]]
21, wherein the cap of casing is a pliable or flexible sheath.

11-20. (canceled).

21. (previously presented) A bone instrumentation cover or shield capable of being permanently installed over the instrumentation during bone repair or reconstruction surgical procedure comprising:

a nonextendable hollow cap or casing pouch adapted for permanent installation or for removal in a subsequent surgical procedure and which is dimensioned to be placed over and to encapsulate the projecting parts of the instrumentation which has been installed in the bone, and

a fastener portion provided at a lower edge of the cap or casing pouch for securing said cap or casing to adjacent bone areas or tissue or to parts of the instrumentation where the instrumentation has been installed in the bone, said fastener portion comprising:

a cinch ring provided with openings therein, said cinch ring not being a part of said hollow cap or casing pouch, and said cinch ring being a tubular form having one or more draw strings for tightening the cover or shield circumferentially around the instrumentation during said bone repair or reconstruction surgical procedure;

a plurality of adjustable suture strings having a plurality of first ends and a plurality of second ends, said plurality of first ends of said plurality of adjustable suture strings being fixedly connected to said hollow cap or casing pouch, and said plurality of second ends of said plurality of non-adjustable suture strings threaded through said cinch ring for tightening the hollow cap or casing pouch vertically down to the cinch ring over the instrumentation during said bone repair or reconstruction surgical procedure; and

a plurality of non-adjustable suture strings having a plurality of first ends and a plurality of second ends, said plurality of first ends of said plurality of non-adjustable suture strings being fixedly connected to said hollow cap or casing pouch, and said plurality of second ends of said plurality of non-adjustable suture strings being fixedly connected to said cinch ring,;

wherein said hollow cap or casing pouch provides a mechanical barrier for preventing ingrowth of bone or fibrous tissue into the interstices of the instrumentation.

22. (currently amended) A bone instrumentation cover ~~or shield~~ according to claim ~~[[21]]~~ 23, wherein said hollow cap ~~or casing pouch comprises one member selected from the group~~ is made of a medically safe material consisting of GoreTex™, or Dacron™ ~~[[and]]~~ or polyurethane.

23. (new) A bone instrumentation cover installed over bone instrumentation during bone repair or reconstruction surgical procedure comprising:

a hollow cap encapsulating a part of a bone instrumentation which has been installed in bone, the hollow cap encapsulating a part of the bone instrumentation which projects from the bone, and

the hollow cap having a fastener portion securing the cap to the bone instrumentation.

24. (new) A bone instrumentation cover or shield according to claim 23, wherein the fastener portion includes a suture string securing the cap to one of adjacent bone and adjacent tissue.

25. (new) A bone instrumentation cover according to claim 24, further including a plurality of adjustable suture strings each adjustable suture string having a first end and a second end, the first ends of the adjustable suture strings being fixedly connected to the hollow cap, and the second ends of the adjustable suture strings are threaded through a cinch ring tightening the hollow cap to the cinch ring with the hollow cap extending over the bone instrumentation installed during the bone repair or reconstruction surgical procedure.

26. (new) A bone instrumentation cover according to claim 25, further including a non-adjustable suture string with a first end of the non-adjustable suture string tied to a lower edge of the cap and with a second end of the non-adjustable suture string attached to the cinch ring.

27. (new) A bone instrumentation cover according to claim 26, further including a second non-adjustable suture string with a first end of the non-adjustable suture string tied to a lower edge of the cap and with a second end of the non-adjustable suture string attached to the cinch ring and wherein the first and second non-adjustable sutures are on opposite sides of the hollow cap.

28. (new) A bone instrumentation cover according to claim 23, wherein the hollow cap encapsulates substantially all of the bone instrumentation which projects from the bone.

29. (new) A bone instrumentation cover installed over the bone instrumentation during bone repair or reconstruction surgical procedure comprising:

an in vivo hollow cap encapsulating a part of a pedicle screw which has been installed in bone of a human, the hollow cap encapsulating a part of the pedicle screw which projects from the bone, and

a fastener securing the cap to the pedicle screw.

30. (new) A bone instrumentation cover according to claim 29, further including sutures for securing the hollow cap to one of adjacent bone and adjacent tissue.

31. (new) A bone instrumentation cover according to claim 30, wherein the sutures include a plurality of adjustable suture strings each adjustable suture string having a first end and a second end, the first ends of the adjustable suture strings being fixedly connected to the hollow cap, and the second ends of the adjustable suture strings are threaded through a cinch ring tightening the hollow cap to the cinch ring with the hollow cap extending over the pedicle screw installed during the bone repair or reconstruction surgical procedure.

32. (new) A bone instrumentation cover according to claim 31, further including a non-adjustable suture string with a first end of the non-adjustable suture string tied to a lower edge of the cap and with a second end of the non-adjustable suture string attached to the cinch ring.

33. (new) A bone instrumentation cover according to claim 31, wherein the cinch ring has openings therein, said cinch ring not being a part of said hollow cap or casing, and said cinch ring being a tubular form.

34. (new) A bone instrumentation cover according to claim 23, wherein the hollow cap includes pleats adapted for adjustment of one of the length, width and height of the hollow cap so that the hollow cap fits snugly around the bone instrumentation.